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element in Jesus' conception of messiahship, Professor Rhees properly refuses to draw the thought of Paul back into the words of Jesus. It would be difficult to improve the chapters dealing with the early Galilean ministry, while the discussion of the early messianic career of Jesus, though of necessity not exhaustive, is characterized by due regard for the fourth gospel, and as a result does not lose the key to the interpretation of the relations of Jesus with his disciples and the people at large.

A word should also be said in appreciation of the literary quality of the volume. In this it outranks most theological writings and greatly aids the deep religious purpose of the author.

It would be advisable to reëdit the map as regards political boundaries.

S. M.

The Apostolic Age. Its Life, Doctrine, Worship, and Polity. By JAMES VERNON BARTLET, M.A., sometime Scholar of Exeter College, Oxford, and Senior University Greek Testament Prizeman; Lecturer in Church History in Mansfield College. New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1899. Pp. xlv + 542.

Of making many books upon the early history of the Christian church there is no end. It is with a feeling of weariness that one whose duty it is to maintain acquaintance with this literature takes in hand a new volume, fearing that it may prove to be a mere repetition of what has been said many times before, or a polemic aimed at some other recent author. Whoever, with this expectation, opens this book of Mr. Bartlet's will experience a very pleasant surprise. He will find himself introduced to an author who recognizes the historical, as well as the religious, value of the remains of early Christian literature, both those within and those without the canonical New Testament, but who is not in bondage to a theory of their origin or their inerrancy; who shows adequate acquaintance with recent investigations in this realm of knowledge, but who preserves his own clearness of vision and his power to form, and states his own conclusions.

The book forms the first volume in "a series of popular monographs" edited by John Fulton, D.D., LL.D., and is especially well adapted to instruct the large and increasing number of intelligent people who desire to learn the results of modern scholarship without being compelled to traverse all its processes. At the same time a

scholar, familiar with the details of this history, cannot fail to find it interesting and instructive. For a good history does not consist simply of an accurate presentation of facts, but rather in its power to transfer the reader into the age whose history is recorded. An author may express many judgments which a reader cannot accept, and yet present the spirit and general conditions of the age which he describes with such justness and vividness that every reader gains that sympathetic-acquaintance with the age and its leading characters which is far better than a mere knowledge of facts and names and dates, however accurate that may be. It is this appreciation of the apostolic age, and the ability to make others realize the conditions, influences, and motives which then prevailed, which give to Mr. Bartlet's book its chief value.

With grateful recognition of this high quality of the book, one may hesitate to accept some of the author's conclusions, and may be constrained to reject others of them. That few scholars will accept them all will appear from a brief statement of some of the more important. He dates the conversion of Paul in 31-32 A. D., but does not accept at other points the early dates of Harnack and McGiffert. He holds that Paul spent two years in Damascus, preaching in its synagogues. The "revelation" of Gal. 2 : 2 is identified with that recorded in 2 Cor. 12 : 2-5, which requires placing the visit to Jerusalem, Gal. 2 : 1, before the visit of Acts 11 : 30. Paul's arrest occurred in 56 and his death in 61-62 A. D. The older view of a release and second imprisonment, recently defended by several critical writers, is rejected.

Traditional views concerning the authorship and dates of the books of the New Testament are, in the main, defended, though some novel suggestions as to the conditions under which they were written are made, *e. g.*, Galatians was written while Paul was making a journey from Antioch to Jerusalem, and First Timothy was written "on board ship at or soon after leaving Miletus," while Second Timothy and Titus were written from Rome. The epistles of James and Jude were written by the brothers of the Lord. First and Second Peter were from the pen of the apostle, though the second epistle, which was written first, has been interpolated.

These cases cited illustrate the author's opinions. We may accept, or doubt, or reject them ; but no one can read his book without feeling an increase of interest in the age of the apostles and of respect for the men who laid the foundations of the Christian church, and wrote its earliest and most inspiring literature.

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